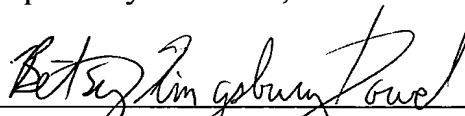


REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the present amendment prior to examination of the above-referenced application. Applicants have attached substitute sheets 27-30 to replace the original filed Claims 1-17 in the PCT application in response to the written opinion provided by the PCT Office. No new matter has been added by these amended claims, support for which can be found in the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed. Applicants have further amended the claims to remove multiple dependencies and reference numerals. In addition, Applicants have added section headings to the specification, as well as a claim of priority to the International Application, in order to conform with U.S. practice.

Applicants believe that the claims and specification as amended are now in proper form for examination. In view of the foregoing submission, examination of the present application on the merits is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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